

(10) Patent No.: US 6,411,682 B1
(45) Date of Patent: Jun. 25, 2002

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- (57) **ABSTRACT**

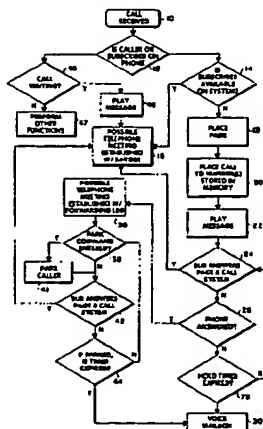
The invention provides a method and an apparatus for placing a caller into telecommunication with a subscriber. A call from the caller, directed to the subscriber, is detected and, in response thereto, a page is initiated to the subscriber and at the same time a forward leg call is initiated to a stored telephone address. If the call on the forward leg is answered, the party answering that call is placed in telecommunication with the caller. A call from the subscriber is also detected the subscriber is placed in telecommunication with the caller together with any party on a forward leg call.

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32 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets

**Microfiche Appendix Included
(2 Microfiche, 157 Pages)**





US005838779A

United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** 5,838,779

Fuller et al.

[45] **Date of Patent:** *Nov. 17, 1998[54] **ADJUNCT CONTROLLER FOR A TELEPHONE SYSTEM**[75] **Inventors:** Robert M. Fuller, Redmond;
Frederick A. Epler, Issaquah; Maxwell
E. Manowski, Enumclaw, all of Wash.[73] **Assignee:** Aspect Telecommunications
Corporation, San Jose, Calif.[*] **Notice:** The term of this patent shall not extend
beyond the expiration date of Pat. No.
5,375,161.[21] **Appl. No.:** 429,908[22] **Filed:** Apr. 27, 1995**Related U.S. Application Data**[62] Division of Ser. No. 249,453, May 26, 1994, Pat. No.
5,673,299, which is a division of Ser. No. 480,242, Feb. 15,
1990, Pat. No. 5,375,161, which is a continuation-in-part of
Ser. No. 439,601, Nov. 21, 1989, abandoned, which is a
continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 841,931, Mar. 20, 1986, Pat.
No. 4,893,335, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No.
650,821, Sep. 14, 1984, abandoned.[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** H04M 3/42; H04M 1/00;
H04M 1/56; H04M 15/06[52] **U.S. Cl.** 379/211; 379/89; 379/156;
379/142; 455/417[58] **Field of Search** 379/156, 127,
379/142, 165, 202, 210, 211, 212, 245,
67, 88, 89, 93, 94, 93.01, 93.14; 370/259,
271; 455/415, 417[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**3,676,603 7/1972 Budrys et al. 379/217
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"Secretarial Branch Exchange".*Primary Examiner*—Paul Loomis*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Ladas & Parry[57] **ABSTRACT**

A telephone system for providing enhanced telephone services. The system includes a telephone switch servicing a plurality of telephone subscribers via communication facilities of the switch, which facilities handle both voice and data communications. A telephone switch controller is coupled to the switch for controlling the switch to provide an enhanced service not otherwise available in the switch. The controller communicates with the switch using data in the form of switch functions. The controller includes a memory for storing a sequence of switch functions, which sequence defines the enhanced service. The controller communicates a prompt to a caller in response to a telephone call placed by the caller to a predetermined telephone address associated with a subscriber and communicates the sequence of switch functions stored in the memory to the switching system in response to a command received from the caller to provide the enhanced service.

14 Claims, 55 Drawing Sheets